

United States Senate

November 23, 2015

Ms. Amy Blair
Outreach Specialist
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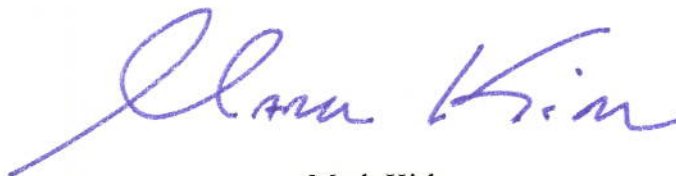
Dear Ms. Blair,

I am concerned that the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) West Campus does not adequately address important issues, such as an evaluation of existing infrastructure and security capabilities of the potential sites, which should be critical to the decision-making process of selecting a new NGA West location. Specifically, the DEIS fails to recognize the unique advantages of the St. Clair County, Illinois site that are key to serving the mission and infrastructure needs of the next NGA West.

Scott Air Force Base, co-located at the St. Clair County site, is home to the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Continental United States Command. This agency supports the Information Technology (IT) needs for all services across the Department of Defense (DoD). Unlike the other considered sites, St. Clair County's proximity to DISA would ensure maximum protection of vital information being exchanged between DISA and the NGA. Given the critical nature of this IT network and the location of NGA West within a seismic area, the St. Clair County site would better protect our national security by minimizing potential vulnerabilities caused by extending IT connections across state lines. In addition to securing the integrity of the NGA's infrastructure, the strict DoD security regulations already provided by Scott Air Force Base offer additional protections to the NGA and its employees.

For a site whose mission is essential to the national security of our country, every effort should be made to ensure that each and every aspect of the potential new NGA West sites is taken into consideration before a final decision is made. With essential security and infrastructure elements already in place, I believe the St. Claire County site is the clear choice that benefits our national security and best serves the mission of the NGA. Thank you for your attention and commitment to the security of our country.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk
US Senator

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